

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CR 23-40087

Plaintiff, PLEA AGREEMENT

vs.

OWEN ZACHARY SIMONSON,

Defendant.

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The Defendant, the Defendant's attorney, and the United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota hereby submit the following Plea Agreement to the United States District Court, which Agreement was reached pursuant to discussions between the United States Attorney and the Defendant's attorney. The Agreement is as follows:

**A. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND UNDERSTANDING OF MAXIMUM PENALTIES:** The Defendant agrees that he has been fully advised of his statutory and constitutional rights herein, and that he has been informed of the charges and allegations against him and the penalty therefor, and that he understands same. The Defendant further agrees that he understands that by entering a plea of guilty as set forth hereafter, he will be waiving certain statutory and constitutional rights to which he is otherwise entitled.

**B. PLEA AGREEMENT PROCEDURE - CONDITIONAL PLEA:** The United States and the Defendant agree that this Plea Agreement is presented to

the Court pursuant to Rule 11(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure which, among other things, provides that with the consent of the Court and the United States, the Defendant may enter a conditional plea of guilty. The United States hereby consents to the Defendant entering a conditional plea and reserving the right to seek appellate review as specified in Section Q of this Agreement.

**C. PLEA OF GUILTY TO CHARGE:** The Defendant will plead guilty to the Indictment filed in this case, which charges Possession of Firearm by Prohibited Person – Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). The charge carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of supervised release. Supervised release will be up to 3 years. If the Defendant is found by a preponderance of evidence to have violated a condition of supervised release, he may be incarcerated for an additional term of up to 2 years on any such revocation. There is also a \$100 assessment to the Federal Crime Victims' Fund. Restitution may also be ordered.

**D. VIOLATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The Defendant acknowledges and understands that this Plea Agreement shall become voidable at the discretion of the United States if the Defendant violates the terms of this Plea Agreement, engages in any further criminal activity or fails to appear for sentencing. If so, the Defendant will face the following consequences:

(1) All testimony and other information the Defendant has provided at any time to attorneys or employees of the United States, law enforcement officers,

the Court, or a grand jury, may and will be used against the Defendant in any prosecution or proceeding.

(2) The United States will be entitled to reinstate previously dismissed charges, to pursue additional charges against the Defendant, and to use any information obtained directly or indirectly from the Defendant in those additional prosecutions.

(3) The United States will be released from any obligations, agreements, or restrictions imposed upon it under this Plea Agreement.

**E. ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY:** The United States agrees that based upon the information known to it at this time, the Defendant is entitled to a two-level decrease in his offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), provided no evidence is disclosed in the presentence report which indicates the Defendant has not demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct, and further provided he: (1) complies with the terms of this Plea Agreement; (2) testifies truthfully during the change of plea hearing; (3) participates truthfully with the Probation Office in the presentence investigation; (4) does not violate any conditions of pretrial detention or release after he signs this agreement; and (5) continues to exhibit conduct consistent with acceptance of responsibility. Both the United States and the Defendant otherwise reserve the right to present evidence and make argument regarding sentencing.

**F. TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY:** The United States agrees that the Defendant has timely notified authorities of his intention to enter

a plea of guilty thereby permitting the United States and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently. Therefore, if the offense level determined prior to the operation of U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) is level 16 or greater and the Defendant qualifies for a two-level decrease under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), this provision shall be treated at the sentencing hearing as a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) to decrease the offense level by one additional level.

**G. GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SENTENCE –  
WITHIN THE GUIDELINES RANGE – DEFENDANT DOES NOT JOIN**

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Defendant and the United States understand and agree that the Court will determine the applicable Guidelines range after reviewing the presentence report and considering any evidence or arguments submitted at the sentencing hearing. For the purposes of this Agreement, the “applicable Guidelines range” is the range found by the Court by reference to the Sentencing Table at U.S.S.G. § 5A based on the Defendant’s total offense level and criminal history before adjustments, if any, are made based on a downward departure, an 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) sentencing factor, or other adjustment.

The United States agrees that it will recommend that the Court impose a sentence of imprisonment within the applicable Guidelines range. The Defendant may argue for a lesser sentence. The Defendant understands that any recommendation made by the Defendant or the United States is not binding on the Court. The Defendant further understands that this plea of guilty may not be withdrawn if the Court rejects any recommendation.

The United States reserves the right to present evidence and argument as to what it deems the applicable Guidelines range should be, what sentence should be imposed, and to respond to any request for a sentence lower than the United States recommends.

**H. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT:** The Defendant agrees to remit to the U.S. Clerk of Court payment of the Federal Crime Victims' Fund assessment in the amount of \$100, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013. The payment is due at the time of sentencing or will otherwise be part of the judgment.

**I. MONETARY OBLIGATIONS - DEFENDANT'S ONGOING DUTY:**

The Defendant agrees, if requested by the United States, to promptly return an executed Authorization to Release Financial Records and Documents, current earnings statements, copies of W-2s and an executed Financial Disclosure Statement. The Defendant understands that this is an ongoing duty which begins upon execution of this Plea Agreement and continues until such time as payment of any financial obligation is remitted in full.

The Defendant agrees to assist the United States in identifying, locating, returning, and transferring assets for use in payment of any financial obligations imposed as part of the sentence in this case. The Defendant expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to obtain credit reports on the Defendant prior to judgment.

The Defendant also agrees that if incarcerated, the Defendant will participate in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program during any period of incarceration in order to pay any financial obligations

ordered by the Court. The Defendant's agreement to participate in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program does not limit the United States' right to pursue collection from other available sources. The Defendant understands and agrees that financial obligations as ordered by the Court apply while serving at a Residential Reentry Center or while serving custody on home confinement. If there is no period of incarceration ordered, the Defendant agrees that payment of any financial obligations ordered by the Court shall be a condition of probation.

**J. RESERVING THE RIGHT TO REBUT OR CLARIFY MITIGATION**

**INFORMATION:** The United States reserves the right to present evidence and argument and to rebut or clarify any sentencing issue with evidence and argument, including matters set forth in the presentence investigation report, matters raised by the Defendant in mitigation of the sentence, or matters raised by the Court.

**K. AGREEMENT TO FORFEIT PROPERTY:** The Defendant agrees to forfeit all interest in a HiPoint 9mm handgun, bearing serial number P10072866 and any ammunition (hereinafter referred to as "the property"). The Defendant is the sole owner of all the property. For the limited purposes of this forfeiture agreement, the Defendant acknowledges that the property was involved in the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. The Defendant agrees to hold the United States, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims whatsoever in connection with the seizure or forfeiture of the property.

The Defendant further agrees to waive all interest in the property in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. The Defendant agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for the property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. The Defendant acknowledges and understands that the forfeiture of the property is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the Court to advise of this, pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J), at the time the guilty plea is accepted.

The Defendant further agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this Plea Agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. The Defendant agrees to take all steps necessary to pass clear title to the property to the United States, including, but not limited to, surrender of title, the signing of a consent decree, stipulating to facts regarding the transfer and basis for the forfeiture, executing deed or title transfers, and signing any other documents necessary to effectuate such transfers.

**L. UNDERSTANDING REGARDING FIREARMS:** The Defendant understands that upon the Court's acceptance of the plea, the Defendant stands convicted of a felony and thus, it is illegal for the Defendant to possess any firearms or ammunition for firearms.

**M. BASIS FOR PLEA OF GUILTY:** The Defendant agrees that the Factual Basis Statement, signed by the parties and incorporated herein by this reference, provides the basis for the guilty plea in this case, and is a true and accurate statement of the Defendant's actions or omissions and that the Court may rely thereon in determining the basis for the plea of guilty as provided for in this Plea Agreement.

**N. WAIVER OF SPEEDY TRIAL:** The Defendant agrees to waive any rights to a speedy trial under either the United States Constitution or the Speedy Trial Act. This waiver is necessary so that the Court will have the benefit of all relevant information at sentencing. The Defendant understands and agrees that this waiver remains in effect even if the plea is later withdrawn or the United States voids this Agreement based on the Defendant's violation of its terms.

**O. PARTIES BOUND:** It is further understood and agreed that this Agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Dakota, and that this Agreement cannot and does not bind other federal, state, or local prosecuting authorities.

**P. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT:** This Agreement shall include any attachments, exhibits, or supplements designated by the parties. It is further understood and agreed that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this Agreement, and this Agreement supersedes any earlier or other understanding or Agreement.

**Q. WAIVER OF DEFENSES AND APPEAL RIGHTS - CONDITIONAL PLEA:** The Defendant hereby waives all defenses and rights to appeal any non-

jurisdictional issues. The parties agree that excluded from this waiver is the Defendant's right to appeal: (1) any decision by the Court to depart upward pursuant to the United States Sentencing Guidelines as well as the length of sentence for a determination of its substantive reasonableness should the Court impose an upward departure or an upward variance pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); (2) Claims that the Defendant's counsel rendered constitutionally ineffective assistance; and (3) the adverse determinations of the following pretrial motion: Defendant's Motion to Dismiss (Document #19).

**R. SUPPLEMENT TO PLEA AGREEMENT:** The United States will file a Supplement to Plea Agreement which is required to be filed in every case in compliance with the Court's Local Rules.

ALISON J. RAMSDELL  
United States Attorney



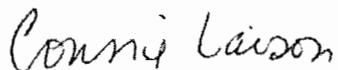
2/15/24

Date

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APPROVED:

ALISON J. RAMSDELL  
United States Attorney  
By:



Connie Larson  
Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney

2-14-24

Date

Owen Simonson

Owen Zachary Simonson  
Defendant

2-14-2024

Date

Matthew Powers

Matthew Powers  
Attorney for Defendant